

and Winston in the south. The railroads provided a means by which the county's farm produce could be shipped to more distant markets and at the same time improved communications between the county and the world beyond Stokes' borders. Farmers and craftsmen could sell their crops and products at distant markets for cash which helped the county economy. Improved communications brought an increased cultural awareness that was reflected in the stylishness of architecture in the county.

One of the Stokes County attractions that brought many visitors to the county by train was the mineral springs found along the north side of the Hanging Rock area. Piedmont Springs, the oldest of the spas, had been developed in the 1850s and predated the arrival of rail service in the county. Moore's Springs and Vade Mecum were built after the rail service made them more accessible to people from a wider area. Although the railroads did not extend into the Danbury area, they brought people into the southern parts of the county, from which they could hire a hack for the trip to the springs. The heyday of these resorts was the last part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when the spring and spa fad was popular throughout the country. People from around the region flocked to the resorts to partake of the "cure of the waters," and also to enjoy the significant social life and entertainments offered by the hotels (Woodard 1981, Hunter 1963).

The resorts were a boon to the Stokes economy in many ways. In addition to the money made by the resort owners, local residents worked at the resorts or provided services from their farms, like the large amounts of food needed to feed the crowds. The resorts also fueled the economy of Danbury whose hotels and merchants were only a few miles away. The decline of the resorts is linked to the increased popularity of the automobile, which provided a easy method for people to travel to other vacation areas, not served by rail.

The Piedmont Springs Hotel was actually three buildings, the first a log structure burned in the 1870s; the second, a large frame building accommodating 150 guests which burned in the early 1880s, was replaced by a smaller two story frame structure which survived until it also burned in 1930. The nearby Moore's Spring complex was built in the 1870s and was comprised of a three story frame hotel, spring house and several cottages. In 1925 the hotel was destroyed by fire. The spring house remains as do the cottages which were connected together into a long building which served as a commercial dining room. The Vade Mecum resort was the last to open and the first to close. The site served as the winter home of the Sparks Circus, whose owner planned to develop the area into a resort but died before he could carry out the project (Phillips 1989). Two hotels were built along with a complex of other buildings and a lake. The largest hotel building burned in 1920, leaving the smaller hotel which has been used as a resort and childrens camp by various groups until 1981 when the property became 4-H Camp Seratoma (Woodard 1981).

About the same time the resorts were in their final decline the development of Hanging Rock State Park began in 1935 with the establishment of a CCC camp at the base of the mountain. The Park opened to the public in 1944 and continues to develop as one of the most